

Workshop #2: Building Health and Resilience Research Capacity in the U.S. Gulf Coast

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Public Agenda

February 20, 2025

Xavier University of Louisiana
Administration Auditorium
7325 Drexel Dr, New Orleans, LA 70125

Objectives

- Discuss how Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) would like to be engaged in community-engaged research efforts.
- Discuss research opportunities that address the compounding effects of extreme weather events and environmental stressors on human health, inform and improve public health data systems, and enhance community resilience.
- Discuss partnerships for supporting HBCU and MSI participation in health and resilience related community-engaged research.

Event Disclaimer: It is essential to the National Academies mission of providing evidence-based advice that participants in any of our meetings or events avoid political or partisan statements or commentary and maintain a culture of mutual respect.

Thursday, February 20, 2025

8 – 9 AM

Registration and Breakfast

9 – 9:10 AM

Welcoming Remarks: Workshop Planning Committee Co-Chairs

[Dr. Berneece Herbert](#)

Associate Professor & Department Chair, Urban & Regional Planning
Jackson State University

[Dr. Shamarial Roberson](#)

Chief Executive Officer
DSR Public Health Foundation, Inc.

9:10 – 9:20 AM

Workshop Purpose and Context

Ms. Laila Reimanis
Associate Program Officer, Gulf Research Program
National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine

9:20 – 10 AM **Keynote Presentation**

Moderator:

[Dr. Erin Lynch](#), President, Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network

Speaker:

[Dr. Deanna Wathington](#)

Executive Director, Consortium of African American Public Health Programs

President, American Public Health Association

Clinical Director, REACHUP Inc.

10 – 10:15 AM

Break

10:15 – 11:15 **Panel: Interdisciplinary Partnerships among MSIs and HBCUs**

This panel will explore strategies for fostering collaboration and partnerships to strengthen research and workforce development at HBCUs and MSIs. Discussions will focus on building cross-institutional partnerships, establishing and leveraging HBCU and MSI consortia, and creating connections that support health and infrastructure-related workforce training and development.

Moderator:

[Dr. Berneece Herbert](#), Associate Professor & Department Chair, Urban & Regional Planning, Jackson State University

Speakers:

[Dr. Omolola Adepoju](#)

Associate Professor
University of Houston

[Dr. Babatunde “Kay” Oyajobi](#)

Professor and Program Director, SABER IRACDA
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

[Dr. Robert Bullard](#)

Professor, Founder and Director
Bullard Center for Environmental & Climate Justice
Texas Southern University

11:15 – 12PM **Small Group Activity: Creating Sustainable Partnerships**

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the best strategies for creating partnerships between researchers at academic institutions and leaders of community-based organizations?
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2. What key steps, engagement methods, or resources that could/should be used to ensure sustainable partnerships?

| 12 – 1 PM | Lunch |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <p>1 – 2 PM</p> <p>60 min</p> | <p>Panel: Cracking the Ivory Tower: Partnering with External Organizations</p> <p>This panel will examine the frameworks for building external partnerships that enhance the impact of HBCUs and MSIs in research. The discussion will explore collaborations with other institutions of higher education, community-based organization, industry, and government entities. By discussing what balanced partnerships look like in practice, the panel aims to identify strategies for fostering meaningful connections that drive research, health outcomes, and community resilience.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Shamarial Roberson, Chief Executive Officer, DSR Public Health Foundation, Inc.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Dr. Ashwith Chilvery Director of Use-Inspired Research & Development The Future Use of Energy in Louisiana (FUEL)</p> <p>Dr. Joan Hendrix Associate Vice President for Nursing and Health Professions Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College</p> <p>Dr. Victor Sutton Chief of Community Health and Clinical Services Mississippi Department of Health</p> |
| 2 – 2:15 PM | Break |
| <p>2:15 – 3:25 PM</p> | <p>Panel: Engaging in and Sustaining Community-based Partnerships for Research and Collaboration</p> <p>This panel will explore the importance of engaging communities in research and the methods that foster meaningful, long-term partnerships. Topics will include approaches to engage communities (e.g., CBPR), insights from community perspectives, and strategies for sustaining connections over time. The discussion will also address what mechanisms some institutions have in place to support community-engaged research and how such support can be enhanced to strengthen collaborations.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Lance Hallberg, Program Director, Environmental & Public Health Education and Engagement, UT Medical Branch at Galveston</p> |

Speakers:

[Mr. Hilton Kelley](#)

Founder and Director
Community In-Power and Development
Association (CIDA)

[Dr. Ayodeji Iyanda](#)

Assistant Professor of Geography
Prairie View A&M University

Mr. Joshua Cox

Chief Executive Officer
Community Power South

[Mr. Arthur Johnson](#)

Chief Executive Officer
Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable
Engagement and Development

[Dr. Faye Grimsley](#)

Professor
Xavier University

3:25 – 4:25 PM **Small Group Discussion Activity:** Best Practices and Assessment Metrics for Sustainable Partnerships

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the best practices of academic-community partnerships at your institution/agencies?
 2. What assessment metrics should be used to monitor and evaluate the success of these partnerships?
 3. “Offer and Ask” Discussion
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4:25 – 4:40 PM **Closing Speaker:** Bridging the Gap between Community and Universities

[Mr. Daniel Blackman](#)

Former Biden-Harris Appointee
Founder, Renaissance94

4:45 – 6PM

Networking Reception